

## Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NASA-04 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 RSC-01 SAJ-01 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2215

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13496

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA OTRA UR (FLETCHER, JAMES C.)

SUBJECT: SPACE AGREEMENT: VISIT OF NASA ADMINISTRATION FLETCHER

REF: MOSCOW 12799

1. INTERKOSMOS HAS REQUESTED INFORMATION ON RESERVATIONS THAT FLETCHER HAS BOOKED FOR RETURN FLIGHT FROM MOSCOW ON SEPTEMBER 12, INCLUDING DEPARTURE TIME AND FLIGHT NUMBER. (WE GUESS THAT THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO DECIDE THE QUESTION OF WHO WILL ESCORT FLETCHER TO AIRPORT. IF DEPARTURE TIME IS AT REASONABLE HOUR IN MORNING, ACADEMICIAN PETROV WILL PROBABLY ACCOMPANY.)

2. PROGRAM FOR FLETCHER VISIT REMAINS AS REPORTED IN REFTEL. SINCE BOLSHOI IS DARK ON MONDAYS, WE HAVE OPTED FOR CIRCUS PERFORMANCE ON SEPTEMBER 9. CHARGE WOULD BE PLEASED TO GIVE FLETCHER A GENERAL BRIEFING AT EMBASSY AT 0915, SEPTEMBER 9, PRECEDING FLETCHER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KELDYSH.

3. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER FLETCHER DESIRES U.S. CORRESPONDENTS AND MEDIA REPS TO BE INVITED TO SPASO HOUSE FUNCTION ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10.

4. FLETCHER AND FRUTKIN WILL BE ACCOMMODATED AT NATIONAL  
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HOTEL, ACROSS SQUARE FROM THE KREMLIN.

5. SOVIET SIDE WILL PROVIDE INTERPRETER FOR FLETCHER. INTERPRETER WILL PROBABLY BE YURIY V. ZONOV, HEAD OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION SECTION, INSTITUTE FOR SPACE RESEARCH.

6. EMBASSY WISHES TO ADVISE THAT KELDYSH HEALTH REMAINS POOR. WE TALKED WITH KELYSH AT SEVERAL OFFICIAL SOCIAL FUNCTIONS DURING RECENT PRESIDENTIAL VISIT. THESE WERE OUR FIRST CONTACTS WITH HIM SINCE HIS LONG HOSPITALIZATION AND SANITORIUM CONFINEMENT LAST SPRING FOR WHAT SOME SOVIET SOURCES HAVE TOLD US WAS COMPLETE PHYSICAL EXHAUSTION, BUT WHAT OTHERS DESCRIBED AS TOTAL NERVOUS BREAKDOWN. (HE HAS NOT TAKEN VACATION IN OVER SEVEN YEARS.) HE HAD LOST CONSIDERABLE WEIGHT SINCE WE LAST SAW HIM BEFORE HIS HOSPITALIZATION. (RECIPROCATING KELDYSH'S GESTURE OF RECOGNITION AT ONE SUMMIT FUNCTION, SCI COUNSELOR RESPONDED IN SAME FASHION BY GRASPING HIM AT UPPER ARM AND SENSED LITTLE FLESH ON BONE.) HE APPEARED VERY TIRED, AND HIS CONVERSATION LACKED USUAL COHERENT LOGIC, SPONTANEITY, AND SCIENTIFIC INQUISITIVENESS, AND HE SPOKE OCCASIONALLY ONLY IN HALF-SENTENCES, SOMETIMES DRIFTING ERRATICALLY FROM TOPIC. ALTHOUGHT SOMEWHAT SLUGGISH IN WALKING, HIS GAIT WAS EVEN AND WELL-COORDINATED, WITH ERECT POSTURE AND GOOD BALANCE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT KELDYSH IS NOW COMING TO HIS OFFICE AT THE ACADEMY ABOUT ONCE OR TWICE A WEEK SO HIS CONDITION MAY HAVE IMPROVED SINCE EARLY JULY.  
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